

# **Missouri Board on Geographic Names Meeting**

November 13, 2014  
SOS Conference Room  
James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center  
600 W. Main St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Voting Members Present:** John Dougan (Chair), Chris Barnett (Vice Chair), Gary Kremer, Henry Sweets, Joseph Carter, Debra Green, Amy Moorman, John Fisher, Jerry Vineyard, Frank Nickell, Lynn Morrow, Dwight Weaver, Shelly Silch, Alan Forman and Debra Greene

**Voting Members Absent:** Tony Spicci and James Turner

**Non-Voting Members and Staff Present:** Jane Messenger (Corresponding Secretary), Kim Moseley (Secretary), Liz Zerr (Secretary of State Legislative Office)

## **Call to Order**

John Dougan called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone and asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda for the day. There were no changes.

John Dougan stated that Joe Gillman will be representing DNR on the board and will attend the May meeting.

OA has someone in mind to represent them. John Dougan stated there are four positions on the board that need to be filled. Chris Barnett asked if a letter should be drafted. John Dougan was not sure if a letter is needed.

## **Minutes for May 2014 Meeting**

John Dougan asked for any changes to the minutes after they were summarized by Chris Barnett. Henry Sweets moved to approve the minutes as written. Frank Nickell seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

John Dougan introduced Liz Zerr from the secretary of state's legislative office and indicated she would be sitting in to obtain a better understanding of the MOBGN.

Chris Barnett turned the meeting over to Jane Messenger to discuss the agenda.

## **Data Life Cycle Management**

Jane Messenger stated that individuals will need to contact her to make changes or additions to features on the GNIS lifecycle list. She went on to explain that if a name is not in the GNIS database, it cannot be mentioned in ANY official MOBGN or federal government reports. Jane Messenger stated that last year, the USGS decided there were certain things that would no longer

to be maintained in GNIS. The only way to make changes is through the USBGN making recommendations.

### **VGI (USGS Volunteer Group)**

Joseph Carter commented that VGI is done through the help of volunteers across the state. The process consists of three tiers: volunteers updating the website, verification and GNIS approval. All changes are color coded by status.

Jane Messenger stated that in order for a feature to be approved by GNIS, the source must be known. Joseph Carter said that he will find out and inform the board at the next meeting.

### **Discussion of Executive Committee September 2014 Meeting**

Jane Messenger stated that at the last several meetings the board has deferred decisions on geographic names because they want to extend the source or increase the size of certain locations. In order to do so, she asks proponents if those changes can be made—a process which can sometimes take up to a year and a half. Other state boards have interim committees that work on proposed cases and do pre-meeting research to determine the extent of the feature. Chris Barnett proposed creating an interim committee consisting of himself, Jane Messenger, one state agency representative and an ad hoc member. The board can also reach out to its advisors to participate. The committee would not need to meet as a group, but can communicate their findings via phone or email. Joseph Carter stated that it seems like it would be an efficient way to use board resources. Chris Barnett stated the committee would send their findings to the proponents and that this process will also shorten board meetings. Chris Barnett was concerned about possible Sunshine Law violations. Lynn Morrow stated that the board would not be in violation since the committee would only be doing the research and not making decisions. Jane Messenger asked if there was board agreement to create the interim committee and if there were any volunteers to serve on it if it were created. It was agreed Jane Messenger and Chris Barnett will decide who will serve on this committee. Henry Sweets moved to set up a preliminary committee to evaluate proposals as they are brought to the board. The motion was seconded by Lynn Morrow. All in favor. None opposed.

### **MOBGN Procedures**

Jane Messenger explained that MOBGN procedures are much like the on-line principles, policies and procedures (PPP) of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC). There is, however, a draft revision that the DNC is using. Jane Messenger provided the draft and asked the board if they should immediately start following these procedures. Major changes include the trademark policy, Native American policy and the pet name policy. Jane stated that state agencies should proceed to follow the current PPP until the new one is in place. Chris Barnett believes the board should do that as well. Jane Messenger indicated that only the MOBGN's Native American name and pet name policies will need to be updated, and she suggests that agencies operate under the

DNC's procedures until this is done. Jane Messenger will advise if any changes arise. No action needed.

### **USBGN Methods and Procedures**

The USBGN will contact organizations and give them reply deadlines. If the board does not hear from counties, they will be considered neutral. Question: Should the MOBGN adopt this policy? USBGN also does not accept petitions with signatures that cannot be verified. The MOBGN cannot verify signatures either. Jane asked that the board follow the lead of the USBGN and stop asking for petitions. What other means are there for soliciting local opinions?

John Dougan recommended sending the proposal in a letter and giving counties three months to proceed. If they do not respond, the county is neutral and the Board should proceed. Lynn Morrow moved to make sending contact letters to individual counties via certified mail the board's official procedure, and that if the board does not hear back from a county within two months, the county is in agreement with changes. The motion was seconded Frank Nickell. All in favor. None opposed.

Discussion on whether emails should replace petitions. John Dougan was wary of forgoing petitions because their use is called for in the bylaws. He suggested the change may create more problems than it will solve. Other possibilities are newspaper notices, emails and the creation of a webpage with a drop-menu voting feature. No action necessary.

Changes to how meeting minutes are recorded. Jane Messenger wants to send a summary of board decisions to Jimmy Crunyan at the USBGN following each meeting. She believes a new method of approving minutes needed to do this in a timely manner. The MOBGN would then have two weeks to review and approve the draft. She indicated the USBGN will accept draft minutes. Suggestion to approve minutes in-between meetings instead of at the next meeting. Henry Sweets moved the board should review draft minutes in-between meetings, and that approved versions be sent to both board secretaries. The motion was seconded by [unidentified board member]. All in favor. None opposed.

### **Quail Cove/Bob White Cove**

"Quail Cove" was the original name proposed for the cove on Table Rock Lake. Research reveals there was already a local cove with that name 9.5 miles away. The proposed name has now been changed to "Bob White Cove." Gary Kremer moved to change the name to "Bob White Cove." Alan Forman seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

Quail Cove is located on the end of Quail Cove Road, next to the Quail Cove Resort. Jerry Vineyard moved to officially designate this body of water as "Quail Cove." The motion was seconded by Frank Nickell. All in favor. None opposed.

## **Prairie Hill Cemetery and Prairie Chapel Cemetery Names**

The MOBGN does not have jurisdiction over cemeteries. Now listed as Prairie Hill Presbyterian/Methodist Cemetery; but not listed on the sign. Jane Messenger drove to cemetery to verify the name. GNIS no longer has jurisdiction over cemeteries. The proponent decided not to take further action. Chris Barnett asked if any action should be taken, and Jane Messenger indicated no.

## **Scan Work**

Amy Moorman stated that the Missouri State Archives' conservation lab has brought in several items from the land survey. Most are from St. Louis and St. Charles counties. Conservators are also working on New Madrid certificates.

## **Elsinore, MO**

Secretary of State Jason Kander expressed an interest in naming a feature in honor of former Governor Mel Carnahan. A possible valley has been identified near Elsinore, where he was raised. It was asked if there are other sites associated with the governor. John Dougan replied no. Carnahan's grave is north of Elsinore, while south of Elsinore is a dairy farm where he was raised. John Dougan will discuss the location further with the SOS office, as they would be the proponent.

## **2015 COGNA Conference**

The 2015 COGNA Conference will be held in Anchorage, AK from April 28 to May 2. Chris Barnett may attend to represent Missouri. It will likely be the last conference for many years because of funding issues and increased travel restrictions. It was asked if Missouri should be represented. Gary Kremer moved that, if able, the board will send Chris Barnett or another representative to the conference. The motion was seconded by Henry Sweets. All in favor. None opposed.

## **ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE**

May 21, 2015

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

Gary Kremer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Henry Sweets. All in favor. None opposed. Meeting adjourned.